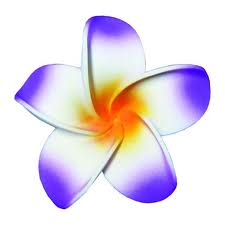
Lesona 1: Folsaga – Introduction

8/02/2012 Wednesday

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* **Tālofa lava!** Welcome to an introduction to Gagana Sāmoa
  + Gagana (pronounced ‘nga nga na’) is the Samoan word for language
  + We are embarking on this new language series so that we align ourselves with the MOE’s intention for schools to be **culturally responsive** and more focused on the achievement of pacific students
  + Each Wednesday, it is the intention of the Pasifika Fusion Festival Coordinators: Tangi, Leigh, Sharleen, together with the Special Project Coordinator: Whāea Jacque, to
    - avail staff of **commonly used classroom Gagana**
    - instruct staff on the **correct pronunciation** of Gagana Sāmoa and
    - provide an explanation as to such nuances of the language as the
      * glottal stop
      * intonation
      * the Samoan alphabet
      * the use of macrons
      * Vaueli (Vowels) and
      * Konesane (Consonants)
* Keep Freyberg staff up to date with Pasifika news in our community and provide interesting information regarding Pasifika culture.

[](http://www.google.co.nz/imgres?q=samoan+tapa+designs&hl=en&gbv=2&biw=1366&bih=595&tbm=isch&tbnid=r1xGyF8Jlh8hgM:&imgrefurl=http://www.nzmuseums.co.nz/account/3236/object/1408&docid=HbRkHVP3Y3BILM&imgurl=http://f1.ehive.com/3236/1/cjv020_1e9_l.jpg&w=800&h=595&ei=EMokT9mYGouviQeCpPjxBA&zoom=1)

* **Tangi:** Before we launch into our first Samoan word (beginning next week 15 Feb), Sharleen, Jacque and I are briefly going to walk you through some of the phonetic rules that apply to gagana Sāmoa, in the hope that it will provide some clarity and understanding, when pronouncing the language.

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So for now, just sit back and relax! All that is required of you this week is to listen to the Introduction (Folsaga) and consider saving ***Lesona 1*** somewhere handy, so that you can refresh your memory with regards the correct pronunciation of Gagana Sāmoa.

So let’s begin

* It is important to understand that language (gagana Sāmoa) and culture (fa'asāmoa) are inextricably linked, as language (including body language) expresses culture.
  + Gagana Sāmoa is the indigenous language of the Samoan group of islands comprising Sāmoa (formerly Western Sāmoa) and American Sāmoa.
  + Gagana Sāmoa is one of five Polynesian languages (Tuvaluan, Tokelauan, Pukapukan and Niuafo'ou) that make up a group called the Samoic languages. However it is similar also to other Polynesian languages such as te reo Māori, lea faka-Tonga, vagahau Niue, 'ōlelo Hawai'i, and te reo Kuki Airani (Cook Islands Māori).



* **Sharleen: Speaking Samoan -** Gagana Sāmoa is a phonetic language. There are no silent letters, consonant clusters, or blends and every vowel in a word is sounded out. Consonants are always followed by a vowel; for example [fa–le = fale], [tā–lo–fa = tālofa], [tō-fā = tōfā].
* **Alphabet:** There are **fifteen original letters** in the Samoan alphabet,
* a e i o u f g l m n p s t v and ' or glottal stop
* and three borrowed letters from the English alphabet, h k r
* The consonants are read as: Fa, nga, la, mo, nu, pi, sa, ti, vi, he, ka, ro
* **All the consonants have the same sounds as in the English alphabet** with the exception of ‘g’, which has the same sound as ‘ng’ in the Maori language or ‘ng’ in the English words sing and long
  + - Some examples:
      * i**g**oa pronounced ee**ng**oa name
      * moe**g**a pronounced moe**ng**a bed
      * **g**ata pronounced **ng**ata snake
      * **g**o**g**o pronounced **ng**o**ng**o seagull
      * **g**alu pronounced **ng**alu wave
* **The vowels have the same sounds as in te reo Māori**
  + - Some examples:
      * A fale (house) as in whare (house)
      * E lele (fly) as in rere (fly)
      * I 'ili (saw) as in iwi (tribe)
      * O logo (bell) as in rongo (bell)
      * U tū (stand) as in tu (stand)



* **Whāea Jacque** In gagana Sāmoa a **glottal stop 'o le leo ta'e** in the spoken word is a “momentary check on the airstream caused by closing the glottis (the space between the vocal cords) and thereby stopping the vibration of the vocal cords. Upon release, there is a slight choke, or cough like explosive sound”, (Britannica, 2009).
  + - An example of a glottal stop in English is the sound in the middle of **uh-oh**
    - The sharp sound the glottal stop represents in gagana Sāmoa is thought to replace an original ‘k’ in ancient Polynesian languages, and which is still retained in some Polynesian languages today.
    - For example:
      * gagana Sāmoa fa'amolemole (please)
      * lea faka-Tonga fa**k**amolemole (please)
      * gagana Sāmoa fa'afetai (thank you)
      * lea faka-Tonga fa**k**afetai (thank you)
    - In written form, the glottal stop is often represented by an inverted comma or koma liliu
* A question can also be used as a statement. **As with English, intonation determines whether it is a question**.
  + - For example:
      * E tīgā lou ulu? Higher intonation at the end. Is your head sore?
      * E tīgā lou ulu. Lower intonation at the end. Your head is sore!



* **Tangi:** Finally, the macron and glottal stop are used in written gagana Sāmoa to assist people who are not familiar with the language to pronounce and understand the words more accurately.
  + - Reading: Samoan vowels have long and short versions. In print, the long vowel sound is indicated by a macron over the vowel (ā).
    - For example:
      * kītara guitar
      * tōfā goodbye
      * tū stand